

Let's GO Fishing!



CARE

Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection





WELCOME & INTRODUCTION



Inland Fisheries Division

Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program

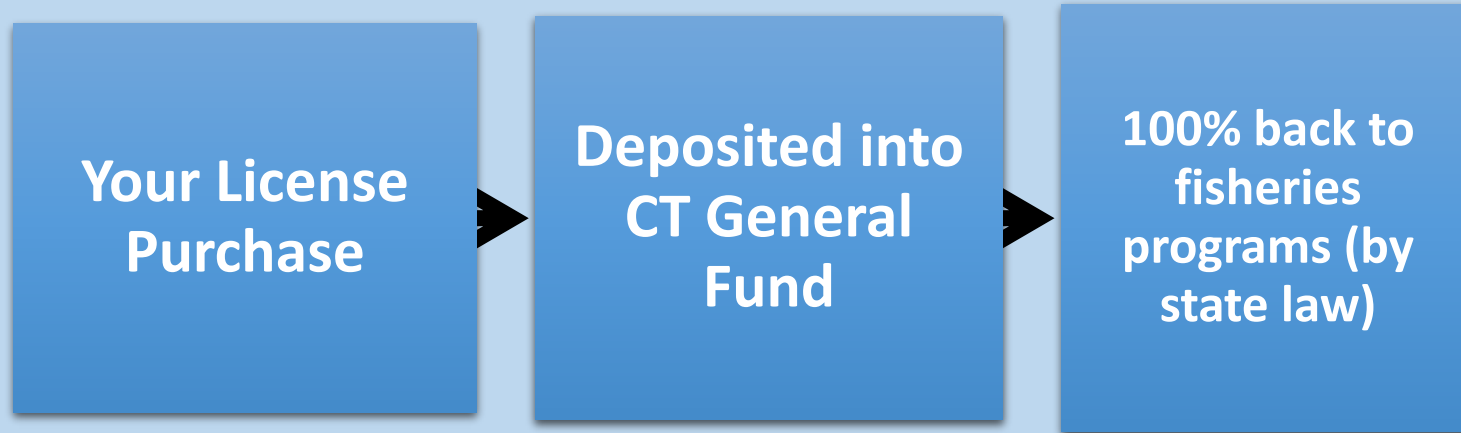
Family Fishing Course



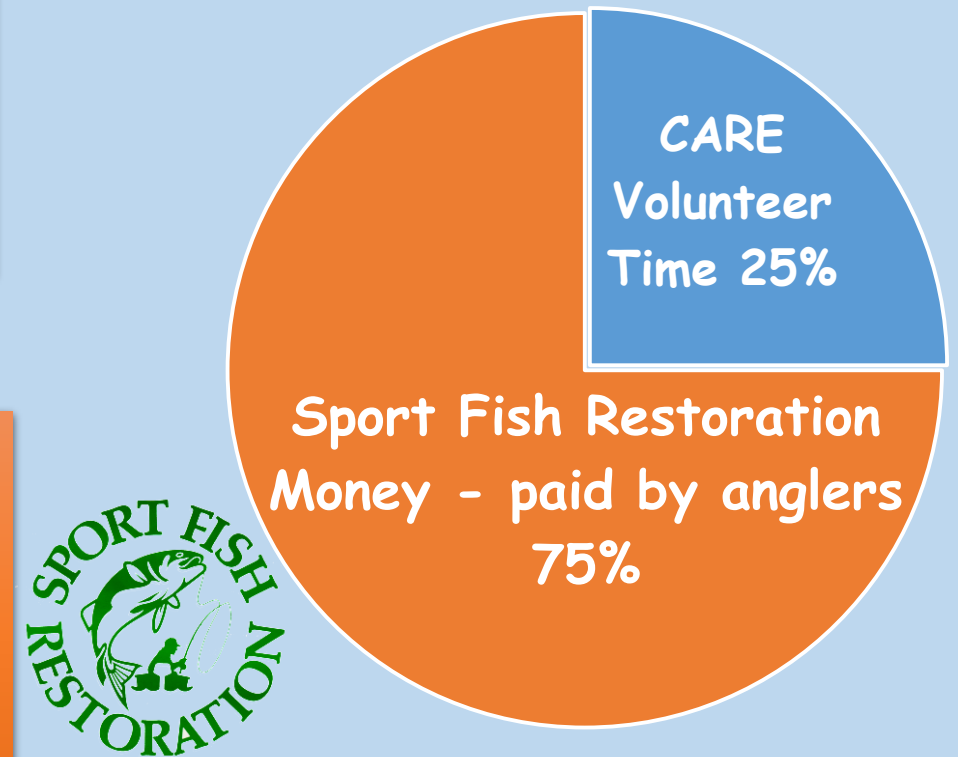
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION



CT based funding for all Inland Fisheries Programs



Funding for CARE program



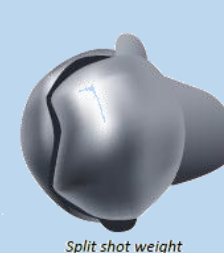
Federal Sport Fish Restoration based funding



FISHING TACKLE



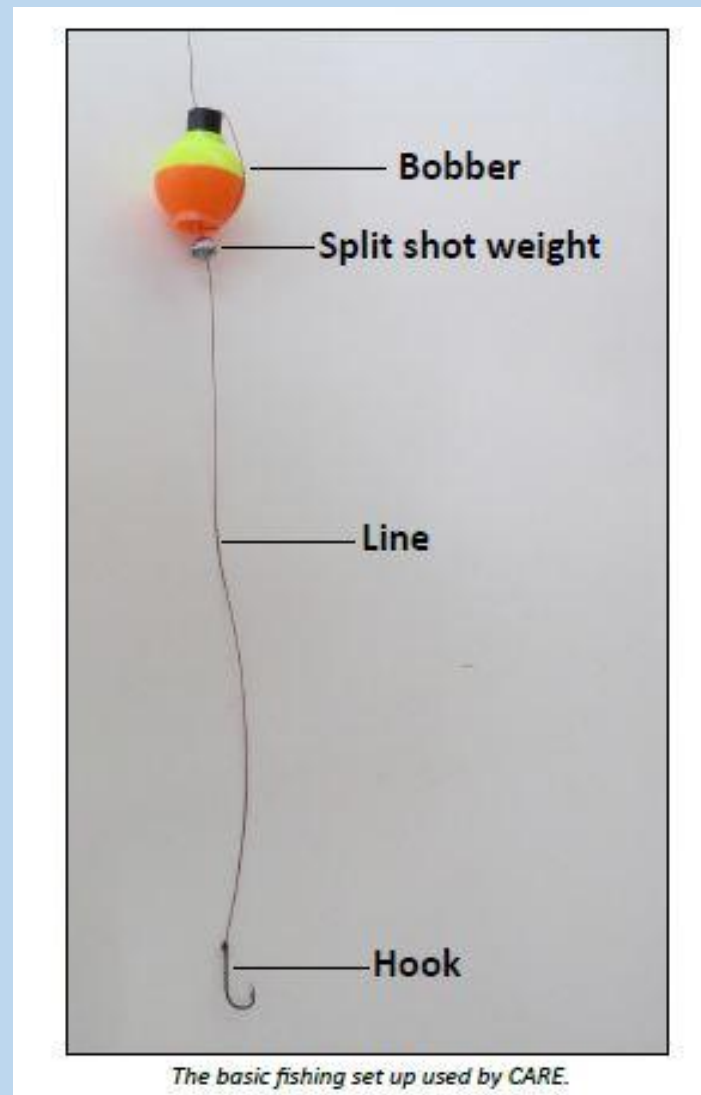
Hook sizes 6-8 perfect for
freshwater fishing CT



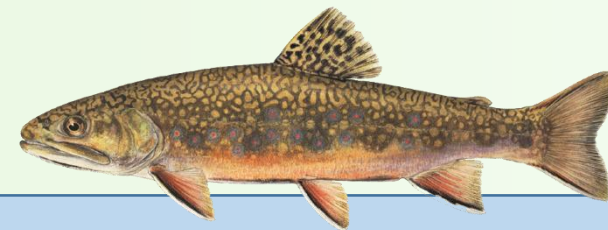
Spincast reel



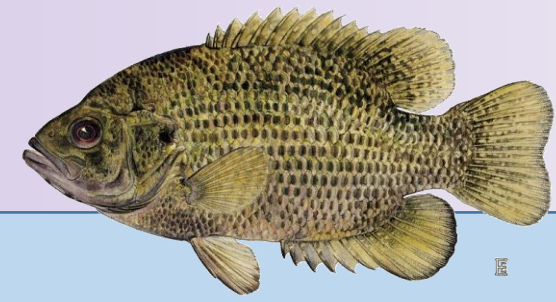
Spinning reel



KNOTS – “Improved Clinch”



RESPONSIBLE AND ETHICAL ANGLERS



Know the RULES AND REGULATIONS!



If catch and release fishing, be sure to:

- Have camera and pliers ready
- Keep fish in water as long as possible
- Wet your hands before handling
- Support fish from tail and belly



Do the right thing even when nobody is watching!

4 GOING FISHING

Fishing Trip Checklist

- ✓ Watch the weather
- ✓ Know regulations for waterbody
- ✓ Check your gear
 - ✓ Line
 - ✓ Bait
 - ✓ Tackle box
- ✓ Tell someone where you are going
- ✓ Invite a friend to share the fun!



Where Fish Live in Lakes, Rivers and Streams

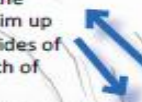
Before you can catch fish, you have to find where they live. There are places in lakes, rivers and streams where fish prefer to live. The areas where fish find conditions suitable to their needs – food, cover and enough oxygen in the water – is called **habitat**. Fish often live where they are protected from natural enemies such as bigger fish, birds and some mammals.

Lakes

Fish wait in deep waters, but come up in to the shallower water to feed. Usually fish will stay close to cover along weed beds, under downed trees, docks or lily pads. Cover not only helps protect fish from predators, it also gives them a hiding place to ambush their own prey.

Hump -

an uprising on the bottom; fish swim up and down the sides of a hump in search of food.



Hole -

fish hang out in deep water to hide from their predators.



Drop Off -

the edge of a hole is called a drop off. Fish often hang around the drop off.



Streams

In streams and rivers fish seek out places where they don't have to fight the current.

Upstream

Riffles -

shallow areas, usually with rocks or gravel and the water flows swiftly.

Pools -

wide and deep areas where fish like to feed.



Run -

deeper, slower water.

Downstream

Eddy -

rocks, logs or a finger of land which deflects the current.



FISH IDENTIFICATION



Trout



Brook Trout have a dark body with light spots and a worm-like pattern on back, head, and sides. The lower fins are typically red-orange with a white leading edge. Stocked Brook Trout are typically less colorful than wild Brook Trout.



Brown Trout have a light body with dark spots. The lower fins are typically brown, tan, or nearly colorless and may have a white leading edge. Wild Brown Trout may have bright red and orange spots and an orange adipose fin. The tail is more rounded than forked. Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon look very similar.



Tiger Trout (hybrid) have worm-like markings covering the entire body. They usually do not have spots. Tiger Trout are a sterile cross between a male Brook Trout and a female Brown Trout.



Rainbow Trout have a light body with dark spots on the head and the tail. There is usually a pink band along each side.

Salmon



Kokanee Salmon are silver without spots until spawning season when they undergo significant changes in both the shape and color. Males often develop a large hooked jaw (kype). The Kokanee Salmon die after they spawn.



Atlantic Salmon have a light body with dark spots. The adipose fin is brown or brownish back fading to a white belly. They may have irregular dark green blotches on the body. They have very large and sharp teeth.

© Joseph Tardella

Bass, Perch & Walleye



Largemouth Bass have a dark stripe along the side of the body. The end of the jaw typically reaches past the eye.



Smallmouth Bass may have vertical stripes on the side of the body. The end of the jaw typically reaches to the center of the eye.



Striped Bass have a light body, somewhat silver in color with a series of horizontal black bands along the side.



White Perch have a silver body and lack any spots or bands.



Yellow Perch have a yellow body with dark vertical bands and orange lower fins.



Walleye generally have a greenish or brownish back fading to a white belly. They may have irregular dark green blotches on the body. They have very large and sharp teeth.

Sunfish & Bass



Pumpkinseeds have turquoise markings on the face and have a red dot on the gill cover.



Bluegills do not have turquoise markings on the face and do not have a red spot on the gill cover.



Redbreast sunfish have some turquoise markings on the face. The gill cover has a long oval dark "ear". The belly is usually a bright orange-red.



Rock Bass have a very large red-colored eye. The pattern on the side of the body resembles camouflage print.



Calico Bass (crappie) have a distinct curved profile from the head to the dorsal fin. The body is very thin when viewed looking from head on. They body silvery or brass colored with dark spots.

Bullhead & Catfish



Yellow Bullhead have a rounded tail and the chin whiskers are light colored. Both the belly and chin are usually yellow.



Brown Bullhead have a rounded tail and the chin whiskers are dark colored. Both the belly and chin are light colored and usually white.



Channel Catfish have a forked tail (pointed tips), very long whiskers on the side of the mouth, and dark chin whiskers. Compared to the white catfish, the channel catfish has a narrow head.



White Catfish have a forked tail (rounded tips), very long whiskers on the side of the mouth, and light chin whiskers. Compared to the channel catfish, the white catfish has a broad head. The eyes may have a light blue band around the iris.

Pike & Pickerel



Northern Pike have a dark colored body with light spots. The entire cheek and only 1/3 of the gill cover is covered in scales. The mouth has large and sharp teeth.



Chain Pickerel have a yellow colored body with a dark "chain-like" pattern. Both the cheek and gill cover are completely covered with scales. Typically there is a dark vertical band below the eye. The mouth has large and sharp teeth.



White Sucker has a streamlined body with a round mouth. The body is usually dark brown on top and bronze color on the side.



Common Carp can be a very large fish (up to 40 pounds) and have large scales. Carp have a small whisker on each side of the mouth.

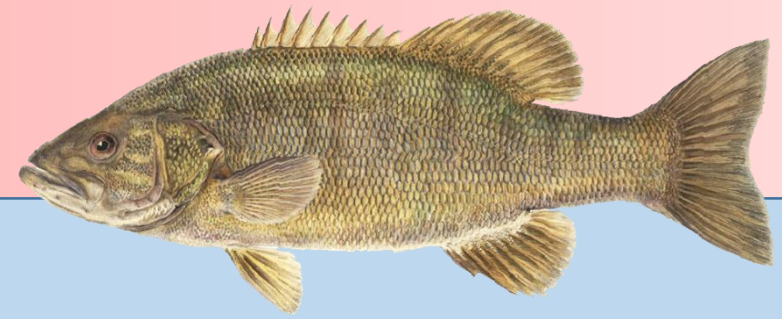
This guide intended to provide some general descriptive information and a photo typical of each species featured. These represent fish that are most often caught in freshwaters of CT. The approximate size of the pictured fish is listed. For more detailed information please refer to the "A Pictorial Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Connecticut" by Robert P. Jacobs and Eileen B. O'Donnell. Available at the DEEP store www.ct.gov/DEEPStore.

For questions about fish or fishing in Connecticut, please contact the Inland Fisheries Division at 860-424-Fish or email: deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov or visit our web page at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

All photographs by Robert P. Jacobs, CT DEEP IFD



BAITS AND LURES



NATURAL BAITS - live baits commonly used for fishing



Worm or Nightcrawler



Meal Worm



Minnow or Shiner



CARE OF THE CATCH



Fish are delicious and part of a healthy diet!

We will now watch 3 short videos. The first covers proper care of a fish you plan to eat.



Chapter 8 CASTING



Hold rod with reel facing UP.
Push and hold button on reel.



Look around for
hazards. If safe,
slowly bring rod back
over your shoulder.



To cast, swing rod forward releasing
button when rod is just passed
vertical position.

Additional Information and Resources:

Chapter 9

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



ICE FISHING



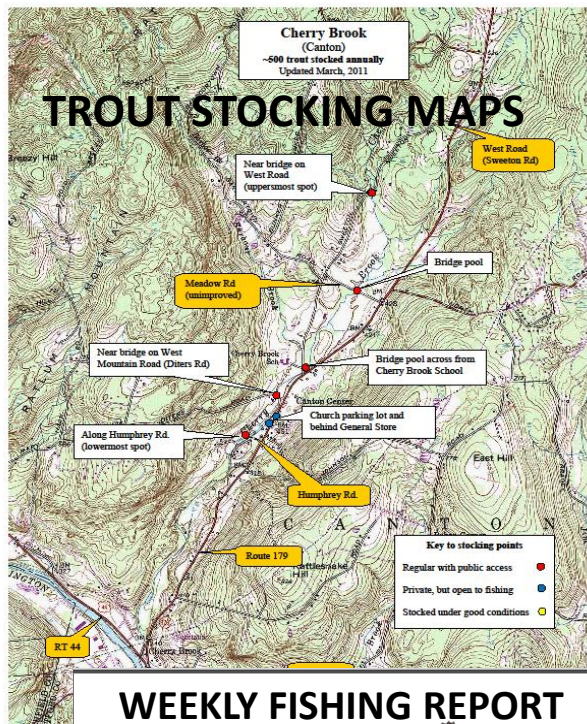
SALTWATER FISHING



Search: CONNECTICUT FISH AND WILDLIFE
and on Twitter @CTFISHINGINFO

Fishing Information at Your Fingertips:

www.ct.gov/deep/fishing



WEEKLY FISHING REPORT

CT DEEP
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 22
9/10/2015



Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)



Find us on Facebook

YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTfishandhunting

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as very good. Places to try include: Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Black Pond (Middlefield), Lake Saltonstall, Pequonnock River, Mudge Pond, West Hill Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Moodus Reservoir, Lake Lillinah, Congamond Lakes, Bantam Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Hatch Pond, Winchester Lake, Halls Pond, Dog Pond, Bishop Pond, Stillwater Pond & Roseland Lake. Tournament angler reports are from Moodus Reservoir (slow, not many caught with a 1.25 lbunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair action, with a 6.15 lbunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at Upper Housatonic River (excellent during the hot weather; the hotter the better; poppers were the lure of choice), Naugatuck River, Quinebaug River, Bantam Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Candlewood Lake, and Highland Lake.

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported from Bantam Lake, Upper Housatonic River & Winchester Lake.

PANFISH are providing good early September action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include: Valley Falls Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Lake Wintergreen, Tollgate Pond, Tetrauld Pond, Twin Brooks Park Pond, Mohawk Pond, Mudge Pond, Crescent Lake, Morey Pond and Hatch Pond.

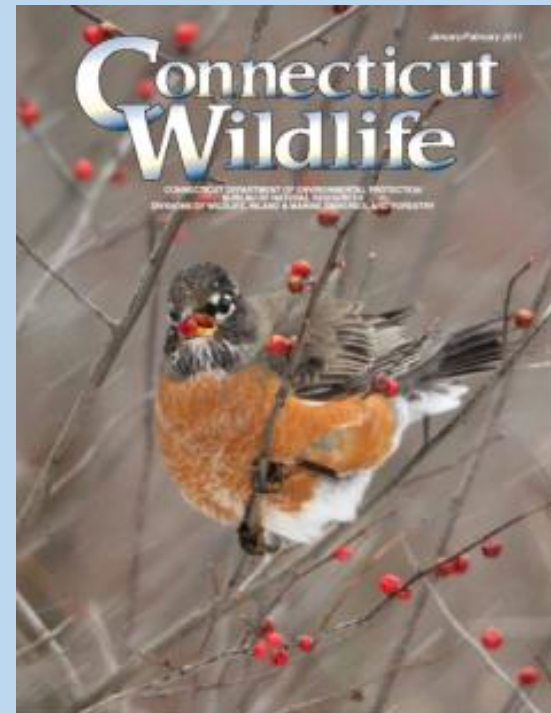
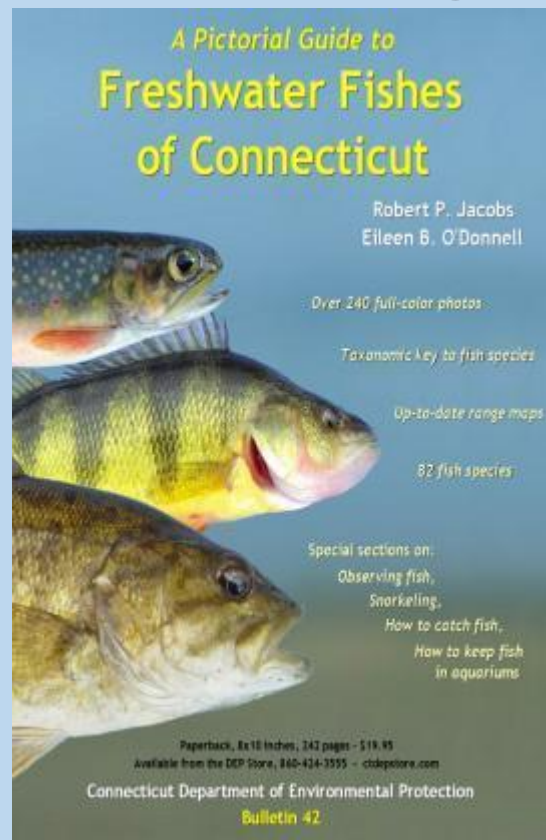
TROUT - RIVERS & STREAMS - The September heat wave was broken this week with a front coming through on Thursday and continuing into Friday. Conditions for trout fishing will be variable this weekend with rain associated with that front headed our way. The much needed rain forecasted for most of the state should bring streams to more typical levels for this time of year. (see stream flow graphic on page 4). Trout fishing was reported to be very good last week from the West Branch Farmington River and Housatonic River.



SAVE THE DATE
Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015, 10 am-4 pm
Back by popular demand! On September 26, 2015 the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources and the sporting community will be at [Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area](#) celebrating the many benefits of hunting and fishing. Click on [Hunting & Fishing Day](#) for online information.

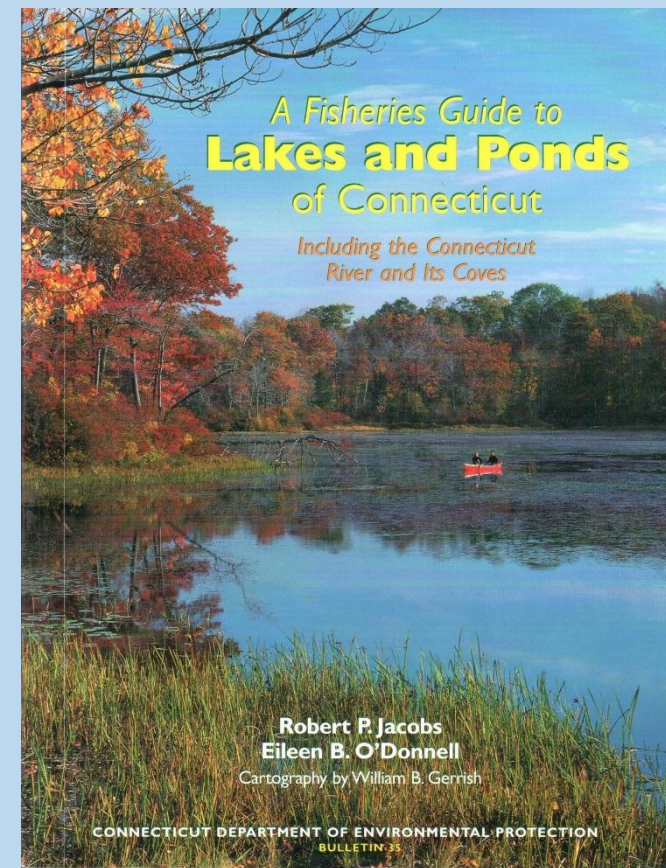
Fun activities for all ages are planned, along with educational programs, a live raptor program by Talons, workshops about hunting and fishing, and live music. Best of all, the event is free to attend!



CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

October 2014

CT Fishin' Tips
Your source for Connecticut fishing news, pointers and tips



Going Fishing!



Fishing Trip Details!

- Where and When
- Don't forget:
 - Snacks and water
 - Sunscreen, bug spray, wipes
 - Bait
 - Fishing license (if 16 years old and over)
 - CAMERA
 - Bring your own fishing gear or borrow ours!
 - A positive attitude!

